Presentation to Joint Adminstration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee

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RE: Regional Telecommunictions Communications (RTCs) Appropriation

Online coursework is on the rise in Iowa and the nation. Expectations of future workers are that coursework will be available online at the speed, technical support and schedule they want. Iowa's Regional Telecommunications Councils (RTCs) are the backbone of a solid and reliable electronic education system is an economic development tool that allows Iowa's education system, particularly Iowa's Community Colleges, to create skilled workers.

— RTCs were established as part of the Iowa legislature's foresight to place fiber in the ground across the State of Iowa 20 years ago.
— RTCs were and continue to be the hardworking force that makes the ICN the distance learning success it continues to enjoy today.
— RTCs are more important than ever before to assist in meeting increasing expectations of equipment and support by users who are used to the iPads and smartphones.
— RTCs provide the following services:

- Technical support for classroom problems   - Schedule ICN classroom use
- Training instructors for effective ICN classrooms   - Troubleshoot for local area networks
- Technical support for K12 computer networks/Internet   - Promote ICN use
- Technical support for classroom/equipment upgrades   - Plan future use/design local area networks
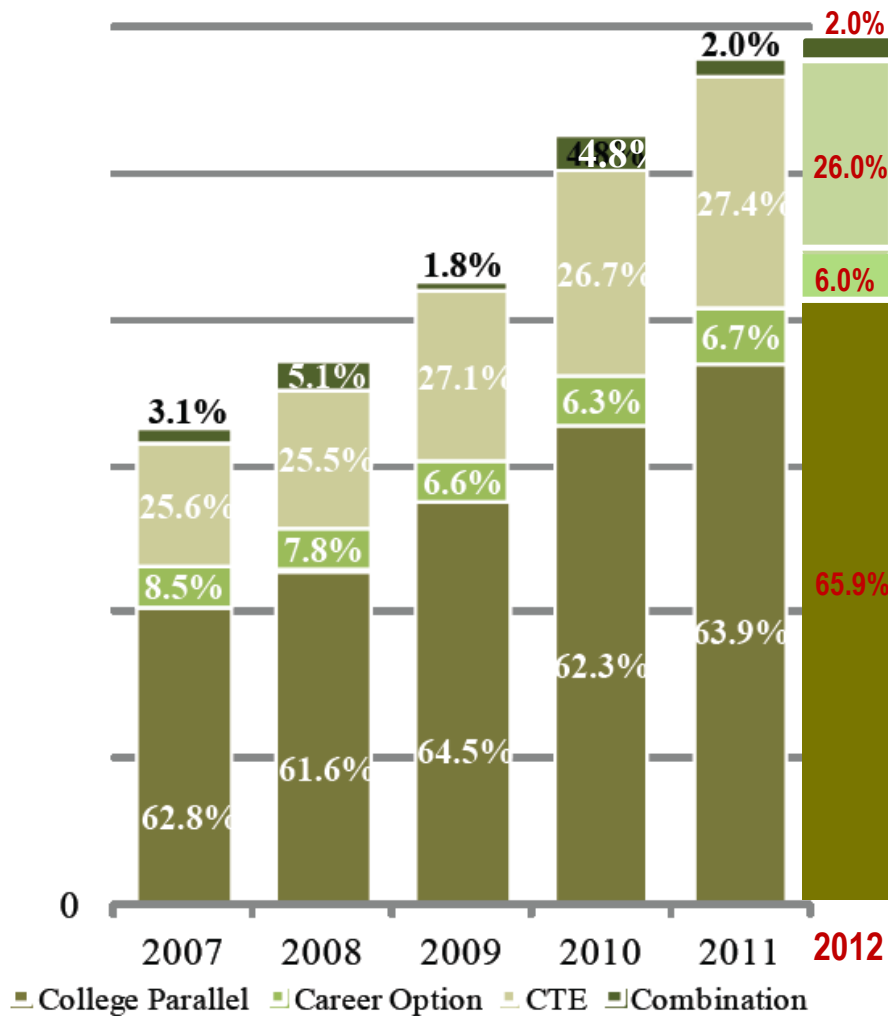- Provide link and support for collaboration between K12, colleges and AEAs

Innovation is one of the keys to successful economic development and the creation of jobs. More and more students demand online classes and training for their career development.

- Over 59,000 students took one or more online classes for over 413,000 hours of coursework.
- Health Science students are the biggest user of the online classes totaling over 63,489 credit hours.
- Women comprise nearly 67% of the online students for career development while caring for their family.

Funding cuts means less support for users and repair and replacement of school owned equipment. The Community Colleges and AEAs are being required to dip into their program budgets to conduct maintenance and upgrades on the infrastructure as well as to provide other necessary supports. Reducing the RTCs funding is like removing mortar from the foundation of a building. Without the support of the mortar the foundation will crumble making the system unusable.

RTC Funding	
Since 2000	Since 2007
↓46.6%	↓20.0%

Usage Since 2007	
CC Students	Credit Hours
↑82%	↑123%

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts today.

2012 CC Online Credit Enrollment

Students
59,359
(↑2.5%)

Hours
425,977
White
77.6%
Young
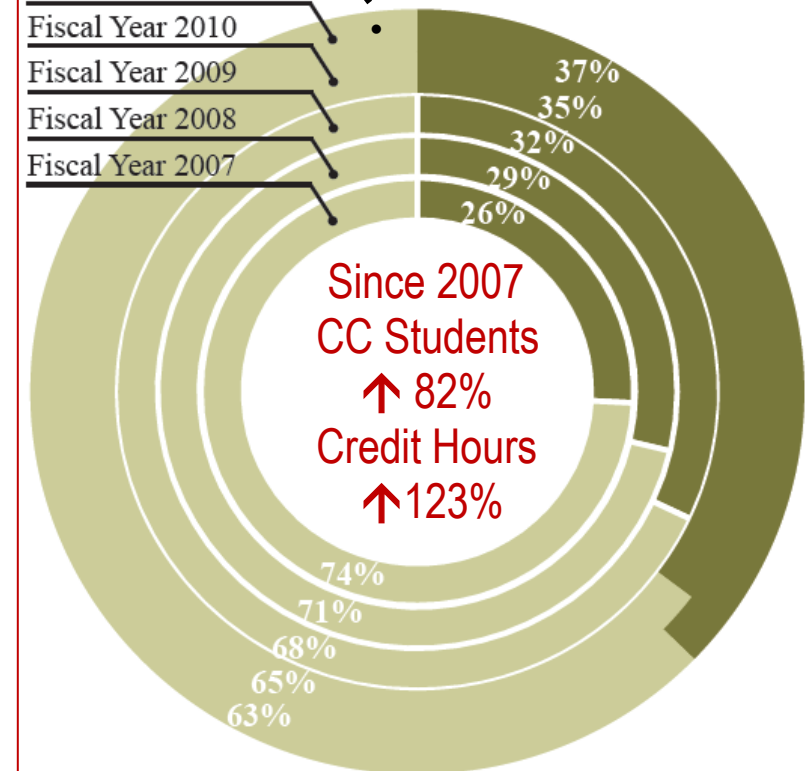25.6 Yrs.

Resident
87%
Female
66.6%

Fiscal Year 2012 = **40%**
Fiscal Year 2011
Fiscal Year 2010
Fiscal Year 2009
Fiscal Year 2008
Fiscal Year 2007

Since 2007
CC Students
↑ 82%
Credit Hours
↑123%

37%
35%
32%
29%
26%

74%
71%
68%
65%
63%

Bar chart values:

2007: 3.1%, 25.6%, 8.5%, 62.8%
2008: 5.1%, 25.5%, 7.8%, 61.6%
2009: 1.8%, 27.1%, 6.6%, 64.5%
2010: 4.8%, 26.7%, 6.3%, 62.3%
2011: 2.0%, 27.4%, 6.7%, 63.9%
2012: 2.0%, 26.0%, 6.0%, 65.9%

■ College Parallel ■ Career Option ■ CTE ■ Combination

■ Enrolled in one or more online courses
■ Not enrolled in online coursework

RTC Funding
Since 2000   Since 2007
↓46.6%   ↓20.0%

Source: Iowa Department of Education